

The vision for the Duluth-Proctor-Hermantown Thrive Initiative describes the ideal community environment for nurturing the healthy social and emotional development of young children. This vision serves as a “roadmap” for community action.

The Duluth-Proctor-Hermantown Thrive Initiative Vision is to ensure the healthy social and emotional development of all children, with a special emphasis on prenatal to age five. Community members understand that social and emotional development is the same as infant and early childhood mental health. It is defined as the capacity of a child to:

- regulate and express emotions
- form close and secure relationships
- explore the environment and learn

Families seeking information and support to promote the social and emotional growth of their young children can easily navigate a seamless and culturally sensitive infant and early childhood mental health continuum of care.

Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Continuum of Care

Promotion/Prevention - Activities and opportunities available to all young children and their families, through a variety of community settings, to promote positive social and emotional development.

Early Intervention - Services for families with young children who present behavioral concerns but have not had a mental health diagnosis.

Intervention - Services for families with young children with a mental health diagnosis but who continue to function in the community with appropriate supports.

Intensive Intervention - Services for families and their young children with severe mental health issues who have difficulty functioning well in the community.

Background

In January 2007, the Northland Foundation launched the Duluth-Proctor-Hermantown Thrive Initiative. These communities are one of six pilot sites participating in the Minnesota Thrive Initiative. This statewide effort is led by the Northland Foundation and the five other Minnesota Initiative Foundations to promote the healthy social and emotional development of young children.

The Duluth-Proctor-Hermantown Thrive Action Team consists of community members representing diverse sectors. Together, the Action Team is working to achieve the goals of the vision by developing and implementing activities, projects, and programs that support infant and early childhood mental health...the healthy social and emotional development of young children.

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**MINNESOTA
THRIVE
INITIATIVE**

*Promoting the Healthy Social and Emotional
Development of Our Youngest Children*

Duluth Proctor Hermantown Thrive Initiative

**Promoting the Healthy Social
and Emotional Development
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Public Awareness

The social and emotional well-being of all young children and their families is recognized as vital to a healthy community.

Goal: Increase public awareness to promote the healthy social and emotional development of young children and connect families to supportive community resources.



Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Continuum of Care

Our communities provide quality, developmentally appropriate, and culturally sensitive infant and early childhood mental health and wellness opportunities that meet the individual needs of all young children and their families.

Goal: Promote quality infant and early childhood mental health and social and emotional development opportunities.



Professional Development

All people working to promote the healthy social and emotional development of young children participate in quality education and training.

Goal: Promote and provide training and networking across disciplines and organizations to support young children and their families.

Healthy Environment

Our communities value the healthy social and emotional development of all young children by providing resources that support parents in raising their children.

Goal: Support families by increasing access to community resources and services.



Advocacy and Funding

A connected and united community of parents; early care and education professionals; medical, mental health, and human service providers; representatives from K-12/higher education and faith-based organizations; funders; policy-makers; and concerned citizens work together to advocate and promote the social and emotional development of young children.

Goal: Facilitate community action to advocate and build support for families with young children and ensure adequate funding for an early childhood mental health continuum of care.